



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620

February 18, 2011

Governor's Office, Mike Volesky (e-mail)  
Environmental Quality Council, Maureen Theisen (e-mail)  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tom Ellerhof (e-mail)  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601  
MT Historical Society, SHPO, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202  
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
Montana Wildlife Federation (e-mail)  
Montana Audubon (e-mail)  
Montana Environmental Information Center; meic@meic.org  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 3, Melissa Frost  
Gallatin National Forest, Ron Davies (e-mail)  
WYSEF, Marc Sheppard-Altius (e-mail)

RE: West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation Decision Notice

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has released a Decision Notice for a Draft EA to grant \$26,325 to the West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation (WYSEF) for a shooting range improvement grant. The project will take place on an existing range located on Gallatin National Forest Service land within one mile of West Yellowstone, Montana. This project will bring the existing biathlon range up to current safety standards and make it capable of hosting international competitions by replacing and supplementing targets, installing a sidewalk and retaining wall, and creating roofed target mounting. The improvements will enhance handicap accessibility and provide for more diverse uses for the range including pistol, archery, shotgun and rifle shooting.

The EA was available for public comment from August 31, 2010 to September 17, 2010. A press release was sent out of the FWP Region 3 office on August 31, 2010 and an article ran in the West Yellowstone newspaper on September 3, 2010. The news release was used in place of a legal announcement.

**Public Comments:**

FWP received 7 comments in support of WYSEF receiving this grant. No comments in opposition of the grant funding were received by FWP.

**Decision:**

Based on public comments received and FWP's internal review, it is my decision to proceed with the preferred alternative A, in which FWP will grant the WYSEF \$26,325 in partial funding for this project, pending completion of other administrative procedures under the Shooting Range Development Program.

Sincerely,

Signed copy on file

Kurt Cunningham  
Shooting Range Grant Coordinator